



ORFORDVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

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NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2016

FROM PASTOR ANDY TWITON:

“Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened for you.”

– Matthew 7:7

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

February is a short month, but it is filled with important moments in our congregation's life.

First of all, every February we hold our congregation's annual meeting. This is a meeting where we provide an annual report on the life of the congregation, where we make important decisions, and where we elect leaders to conduct the business of the church. This year's annual meeting is Sunday, February 7th at 10:00 a.m. We hope you'll join us!

Another important moment this month is the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a season of prayer and repentance lasting for the 40 days before Holy Week. It's a time to return to the basics of being a disciple of Christ as we consider his life and death. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 10th at 7:00 p.m.

This Lent we will be returning to the font by dwelling in the promises of baptism. At the service of baptism and affirmation of baptism (also known as “confirmation”) we make a series of promises about how we will stay in relationship with Christ. Those promises are: to live among God's faithful people; to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper; to proclaim the good news of Christ through word and deed; to serve all people following the example of Christ; and to strive for justice and peace throughout the world.

Each week we will take one of these promises and dwell on what it means to live it out in our everyday lives. Another way to think of the series could be “How do we live a ‘Christian’ life?” We will see that it's more than living a moral life. It's primarily about living a life in relationship with Christ and Christ's church. I hope you'll join us on this journey through Lent.

If I had to pick a theme verse for the month of February, it would be the verse that began this letter. I pray that we will seek God and God's kingdom in whatever we do. At our annual meeting, I pray that we will seek the Spirit's guidance so that God can use our congregation to do God's will. In the season of Lent, I pray that each of us will seek a deeper relationship with Christ and with one another.

God bless you.

Pastor Andy Twiton

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

February Preaching Preview

During the month of February, we'll continue our journey through the Gospel of Mark. Here are the upcoming preaching texts:

- Sunday, February 7th – Transfiguration (Mark 8:27-9:8)
- Wednesday, February 10th – Passion Prediction (Mark 9:30-37)
- Sunday, February 14th – First Last and Last First (Mark 10:17-31)
- Sunday, February 21st – Bartimaeus Healed (Mark 10:32-52)
- Sunday, February 28th – Taxes to Caesar (Mark 12:13-17)

Senior Luncheon - Tuesday, February 2nd @ 11:30 a.m.

The Orfordville Community holds a monthly senior luncheon, on the 1st Tuesday of each month through June. The luncheon is held in the fellowship hall at Orfordville Lutheran Church. The meal begins at 11:30 a.m. with an afternoon program; organized by the Orfordville Public Library. In February; hot sandwiches, vegetables and dessert will be on the menu. Following the meal will be a Trivia Contest with Sarah.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 7th at 10:00 a.m.

Please attend this year's annual meeting on February 7th following worship. This is an important meeting each year where we elect leaders for council and other committees. We also provide an annual report on the past year.

OLC's 150th Celebration – Setting a Date and Forming a Committee

In 2018, Orfordville Lutheran Church will celebrate the 150th Anniversary as a congregation. At our annual meeting in February, we would like to set an official date for celebrating the anniversary and appoint a committee in charge of planning it. If you're interested in volunteering, please speak with Pastor Andy.

Volunteer Opportunities: Assist Pastor Andy with Nursing Home Services

Pastor Andy leads services at our area nursing homes. Please speak with Pastor Andy if you would be willing to help him prepare & distribute communion. The residents love to have visitors. Dates and Locations:

- Tuesday, February 9th at 10:30 at St. Elizabeth's in Footville
- Wednesday, February 17th at 10:30 at Evansville Manor
- Thursday, February 25th at 9:30 at Wood's Crossing in Brodhead

Quilt Raffle – Drawing on Sunday, February 14th at 10:00am

Raffle tickets are on sale for OLC's Quilt Raffle. First place is a beautiful queen size quilt and wall hanging. Second place is \$100. Third place is a wall hanging. Tickets are \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00. The quilts and wall hangings were made and donated by Pat Burtness. Proceeds benefit the mission and ministry of Orfordville Lutheran Church.

Sunday School Valentine's Day Bingo – Sunday, February 14th at 10:00am

Everyone is invited to join the OLC Sunday School for a game of bingo with fun prizes and time for fellowship.

No 3rd Wednesday Youth Group during February or March

Since our midweek Lenten services take place on Wednesdays at 7:00, we won't be meeting for youth group on Wednesday nights. Stay tuned for more information about youth activities during February/March.

Confirmation Students Mac's Pizza Shack Fundraiser – Thursday, February 18th

Please stop by Mac's Pizza Shack (2307 Milton Avenue, Janesville) on Thursday, February 18th from 4-8 p.m. Ten percent (10%) of all sales will go to the OLC youth for summer camp at Lutherdale.

Soup Suppers During Lent – Wednesdays at 6:00 before Evening Services

During Wednesdays during Lent, we'll gather at 6:00 for a simple supper of soups and bread. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for bringing food. We hope you'll join us for some warm soup during these cold winter months.

Theme for Lent 2016 – Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism

The season of Lent will be here before we know it! This year we will continue our tradition of Wednesday night worship at 7:00 p.m. with a soup supper beforehand at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday night worship will include music from Holden Evening Prayer. The theme for this year will be "Continuing in the Covenant of Baptism," which will focus on the promises we make at baptism and at affirmation of baptism (a.k.a. confirmation). Here's a preview of Lent 2016:

- Wednesday, February 10th - Ash Wednesday
- Wednesday, February 17th – "To live among God's Faithful People"
- Wednesday, February 24th – "To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper"
- Wednesday, March 2nd – "To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed"
- Wednesday, March 9th – "To serve all people, following the example of Jesus"
- Wednesday, March 16th – "To strive for justice and peace in all the earth"

Seekers Group – Book Study of Loving Jesus by Mark Allan Powell

As Jesus told his disciples, "Seek and you will find." A few new members are interested in having some discussion about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Pastor Andy would like to form some small discussion groups for a book study of Loving Jesus by Mark Allan Powell. Anyone seeking a deeper relationship with Christ is invited to take part in these groups. No matter where you are in your faith journey you're invited to take part. Times and dates will be set based on the availability of the group. Contact Pastor Andy (pastor@orfordvillelutheran.org) or sign up in the narthex if you're interested in being a part of this group.

Festival Choir on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday – Sign-up in the Narthex

Are you interested in singing in a choir? Pastor Andy would like to form a Festival Choir to sing at Maundy Thursday (March 24th) and Good Friday (March 25th) services. If you're interested, please let Pastor Andy know by signing up in the narthex or sending him an email at pastor@orfordvillelutheran.org.

Office Assistant Hours – Tuesday-Friday, 8:30-10:30 am

OLC's Office Assistant, Sue Draves, will be in the office Tuesday-Friday from 8:30-10:30 am. You can reach her by email at office@orfordvillelutheran.org and 608-879-2575. You can reach Pastor Andy on his cell phone 608-886-0546 or by email at pastor@orfordvillelutheran.org.

Check Out our Website – www.orfordvillelutheran.org

The website has a new look and new content. Check it out and check back for frequent updates.

Pastoral Care and Prayer

If you're facing a surgery or a crisis or if you just need someone to talk to, please let Pastor Andy know by contacting him or by calling the church office (608-879-2575). If you would like to be supported in prayer by our prayer chain, please contact Nancy Dickison (608-879-2638) or Pastor Andy. Pastor Andy may be reached by email at pastor@orfordvillelutheran.org or on his cell phone at 608-886-0546.

Acolytes for the month of February:

2/7/2016	Dynally Mould & Max Gerber
2/14/2016	Kailey Frames & Bailey Paulson
2/21/2016	Bryce Hammon & Dynally Mould
2/28/2016	Arianna Humphres & Payton Stark

Altar Guild Person of the month:

Phyllis Balch

February Birthdays

Dorothy	Bladorn	1
Donna	Nolan	4
Stephanie	Stark	6
Mykenzie	Larsen	15
Glen	Vigdahl	15
Marcia	Peterson	19
Kailey	Frame	22
Eden	Walsh	27
Cory	Burns	28

Note:

Please help us keep our birthday lists up-to-date. If you see an error or if we missed someone, send us an email at office@orfordvillelutheran.org.

Thank you's and Thanksgivings

- Thank you to Bernice Amundson for baking communion bread for Sunday worship!
- Thank you to Sara and Jason Burtness for sponsoring the Microsoft Office subscription for OLC's office!
- Thank you to everyone who came to the Confirmation DQ night fundraiser! Thank you especially to Teena Gerber for organizing it!



Matt Coddington, from Lutherdale Bible Camp, leading a children's sermon.



Mary Hammon presenting the family of Ryder Akkerman with a MIF4KIDZ investment from the OLC Foundation



OLC's Confirmation Class held a fundraiser at the Janesville DQ. Proceeds will help our confirmation class go to Lutherdale Bible Camp this summer. Thanks to everyone who came to support our kids!

OLC'S CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00-3:00 pm Quilt Class 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	2 11:30 a.m. Senior Luncheon	3 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation	4 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P 6:30 p.m. Church Service Group Callers Meeting	5 8:00 pm AA Meeting	6
7 9:00 am Worship 10:00 Annual Meeting 10:15 Sunday School	8	9 10:30 a.m. Pastor Andy @ St. Elizabeth's Footville	10 9:00 am Bible Study (No Confirmation Class) 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	11 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P	12 8:00 pm AA Meeting	13
14 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Quilt Raffle Drawing 10:00 am Valentine's Bingo with Sunday School	15	16 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mission Quilting	17 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Pastor Andy @ Evansville Manor 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	18 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P	19 8:00 pm AA Meeting	20
21 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	22	23	24 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	25 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P 9:30 a.m. Pastor Andy @ Wood's Crossing Brodhead	26 8:00 pm AA Meeting	27
28 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	29					

**Orfordville Lutheran Church
Council Church Minutes
January 4, 2106**

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Glen Johnson.

2. Opening Devotion were led by Racheal and Pastor Andy Twiton.

3. Roll Call

Glen Johnson, Ken Heller, Aaron Burns, Jason Burtness, Traci Manthey, Racheal Grenawalt and Pastor Andy Twiton.
Absent were Mike Varilek, Tony Ends, and Violet Renly.

4. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Ken Heller to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Jason Burtness. Motion approved.

5. Approval of December minutes

Council reviewed the minutes from the December 7, 2015 council meeting. A motion to approve the December 7, 2015 minutes was made by Aaron Burns. Motion seconded by Traci Manthey. Motion approved.

6. Treasures Report

Mike was not present to give treasures report.

7. Pastors Report

- December was a rich and full month that had both highs and lows. Our community experienced the loss of several dear ones. We also had a number of fun community events, including the open house at OLC's parsonage. We continue to have a lot to be thankful for.
- As we look ahead to the New Year, I'm evaluating my priorities for the next year. I'd like to simplify what I focus on in some ways. Community care and Sunday School are among my top priorities in 2016.
- Youth lock-in was postponed after hearing back about several scheduling conflicts.
- Looking back at December:
 - *Counseling and Visitation:* Kathy Demrow and I delivered 36 poinsettias on behalf of the congregation. Met with two families for funeral planning and grief counseling. Met with one couple about marriage plans. Met with one family about baptism.
 - *Special and Community Events:* Led prayer at Senior Luncheon; Led worship services at St. Elizabeth's, Evansville Manor, and Woods Crossing; Hosted open house at the parsonage with over 40 in attendance. Several holiday activities – cookie decorating with confirmation class, Christmas Caroling, Sunday School Christmas Pageant.
 - *Meetings:* Met with Synod Affinity Group in Mount Horeb.
 - No Baptisms
 - No Weddings.
 - Funerals: Marvin Renly (officiated by Rev. Jack Way from Luther Valley), Shirley Hazeltine, Robert Hesgard
 - No Transfers in or out.

8. Old Business

A. Member Survey

We will send a member survey out in the spring to ask members a variety of questions.

B. Other

9. New Business

A. Memorial Wall

Council is interested in going forward with this and council members will price different options and bring them to the next meeting.

B. Annual Meeting Date

Meeting date will be Sunday, February 7 following the church service.

C. Annual Meeting Agenda

Sue Draves will send out a message to committees to send in annual reports. The 150th celebration date and parking lot update to congregation will be included in agenda.

D. Council Terms and Elections

Jason, Mike and Violet are up for re-election this year. Nominating committee will send letters to members to help get volunteers for the coming year.

E. Staff Evaluations/Annual Compensation Review

An annual check-in for secretary and pastor positions is needed. We will use a form from Synod or one that Pastor Andy found to help with the evaluation process.

F. Council Retreat in March

Council will have our March council meeting at the parsonage and welcome new members.

G. Other

Ken and Phil did the snow shoveling. We need to think about hiring or thinking of someone that would be willing to take on the task (for compensation?).

10. Next Meeting/Devotions/Treats

Next meeting will be Monday, February 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Mike Varilek and Pastor Andy Twiton will have devotions. Ken Heller will bring treats.

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ken Heller at 7:22 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Jason Burtness. Motion approved.

12. Closing

Glen Johnson led the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Racheal Grenawalt